



William Joseph "Bill" Burgess Jr

March 3, 1924 - April 20, 2017

William Joseph "Bill" Burgess, Jr., 93, passed away Thursday, April 20, 2017 surrounded by his loving family at Hospice Austin's Christopher House. Bill lived a long, fruitful life seasoned with a sense of humor and a love of learning. Born March 3, 1924 in upper Manhattan New York, he worked in a variety of jobs as a young man including elevator operator in the Empire State Building. When war came, he entered the Navy and served as a 2d Class Motor Machinist Mate on an LCT, participating in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, landing tanks and fresh water to the American forces on Utah Beach and returning American and German wounded to England.

After the war, he received his Bachelors in Geology from St. Peter's College in New Jersey, and when his soulmate, Rita Maria Riley, said "Yes" to his proposal of marriage, they married and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to pursue his profession as Geologist for several oil companies. In 1968, Bill received his Ph.D. in Geology from Columbia University, New York City. Living in Tulsa and moving to several other cities in Oklahoma, he and Rita were blessed with 6 wonderful children. Although frequent geologic moves had their ups and downs, his children will always remember him as a kind and compassionate father with a kind and encouraging smile.

Following the death of his wife Rita in 1984, Bill embarked on a teaching career instructing American servicemen and women in Germany. In 1996, Bill met Elizabeth Barker, an English woman who became a loving companion

and they married a year later. They both enjoyed nearly 20 years of happy marriage, living in Harrogate, a beautiful English "Garden Town" in North Yorkshire England.

Bill is predeceased by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Burgess Sr., his brother Thomas and sisters Eileen Connolly and Frances McCarthy as well as loving spouses Rita Marie Riley Burgess and Elizabeth Burgess. He is survived by his sons and daughters and their spouses William & Annette Burgess III of Greenville, South Carolina; John & Sarah Burgess of Austin, Texas; Rita Marie Burgess of Racine, Wisconsin; Patricia & Damien Daville of Spicewood, Texas; Thomas & Su Burgess of Austin, Texas; Christopher & Suzie Burgess of Austin, Texas and Andrew Bennett of Milpitas, California. Bill also had many grandchildren: Sarah Burgess Corso and Katie Day, Megan Burgess, Sean Burgess and spouse, Amy; Mary Katherine Timbers and spouse, Justin; William Burgess IV and spouse, Stephanie; Riley and Diana Burgess, Mary Rose Burgess Quiroz, Frankie Orr and Michael and Kevin Burgess - all who will dearly miss him.

A Memorial Mass celebrating Bill's life will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 1:30 pm at St. Louis, King of France Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Hospice Austin's Christopher House, 2820 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Austin, TX 78702.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Joseph "Bill" Burgess Jr*

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *William Joseph "Bill" Burgess Jr*

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ *William Joseph "Bill" Burgess Jr*

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



William Burgess III - May 02, 2017 at 02:23 PM

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“Tereasa, Conor, and I are so sorry for your loss. I can't believe your mom left us in 1984. She and your dad were part of an Iconic pantheon that shaped my life. Your dad was so patient and wise. He had the kindest eyes I have ever seen in a man [I like to think my dad had the same look]. And he was a geologist. I got a lot of miles out of telling anyone who would listen that my uncle was a big scientist who was out exploring the exotic southwest in search of Black Gold. Indiana Jones didn't have anything on my Uncle Bill Burgess! Soldier and scientist, he seemed to appear in one adventure after another. Reports circulated that Uncle Bill had been seen all over Europe. Wasn't he supposed to be the quiet one? My brother Tom described a camping trip Uncle Bill organized. I remember Bill and my dad quietly waking us up in the morning and pointing out toward the middle of Kettletown Lake. Two giant snapping turtles were engaged in what seemed to be a duel to the death. As I watched these two titans roll around and crash into each other, I felt I was watching a primordial struggle. I was glad your dad and my dad were there to watch over me. I've lost a lot of my heroes in recent years and Uncle Bill sure was one of them. I miss not having him here. He's another reason I've got to make it into heaven. Man, I've got a lot of work to do. Bill, Rita , and Elizabeth we are praying for you.

Cousins Cary, Tereasa, and Conor

Cary Riley - April 25, 2017 at 10:30 PM

KE

“My Uncle Bill was the kindest man I ever met. I'm truly sad to hear of his passing while also happy for the incredible life he was given. He's one of the good guys that won at life. Uncle Buddy and Aunt LaVerne thought he was a man of high integrity and just someone impossible not to love. All the Connecticut Rileys send their sincere condolences to our Burgess cousins. Your dad was just wonderful.

Cousin Keith.

Keith - April 25, 2017 at 06:35 PM